

California and Western Medicine

Owned and Published by the

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Official Organ of the California, Utah and Nevada Medical Associations

FOUR-FIFTY SUTTER, ROOM 2004, SAN FRANCISCO

Telephone Douglas 0062

Editors {GEORGE H. KRESS
EMMA W. POPE
Associate Editor for Nevada . . . HORACE J. BROWN
Associate Editor for Utah J. U. GIESBY

Subscription prices, \$5.00 (\$6.00 for foreign countries); single copies, 50 cents.

Volumes begin with the first of January and the first of July. Subscriptions may commence at any time.

Change of Address.—Request for change of address should give both the old and the new address. No change in any address on the mailing list will be made until such change is requested by county secretaries or by the member concerned.

Advertisements.—The journal is published on the seventh of the month. Advertising copy must be received not later than the 15th of the month preceding issue. Advertising rates will be sent on request.

Responsibility for Statements and Conclusions in Original Articles.—Authors are responsible for all statements, conclusions and methods of presenting their subjects. These may or may not be in harmony with the views of the editorial staff. It is aimed to permit authors to have as wide latitude as the general policy of the journal and the demands on its space may permit. The right to reduce or reject any article is always reserved.

Contributions—Exclusive Publication.—Articles are accepted for publication on condition that they are contributed solely to this journal.

Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—California and Western Medicine has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

EDITORIALS

PORTER NARCOTIC BILL, H. R. 11143, NOW A FEDERAL LAW

The Different Porter Narcotic Bills.—In the March 1930 issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, the Porter Narcotic bills, which had been introduced into the House of Representatives at Washington and which at that time were entered under numbers H. R. 9053 and H. R. 9054, were briefly discussed. The dangers to medical practice which were incorporated in the two bills were indicated, and members of the medical profession were urged to write to their district congressmen and senators.

After the introduction of the aforesaid bills, Congressman Porter introduced a new bill to reorganize the federal narcotic service, this bill becoming known as H. R. 11143. It is this bill which recently passed both houses of congress, and which has received the signature of President Hoover. This particular Porter Bill, in one sense, was a substitute measure for the two previous bills and contained modifications which had been incorporated at the request of the representatives of the American Medical Association. It is hoped that the undesirable and certain drastic features of the Porter H. R. 9053 have been eliminated from this particular measure, and that H. R. 9054 will now be withdrawn from the files, since it would no longer seem to be necessary.

* * *

Some Basic Features in the New Federal Narcotic Law.—In essence, the new narcotic bill

H. R. 11143 provides for a Bureau of Narcotics in the United States Department of the Treasury, and brings into and coördinates in this bureau various other agencies which were existent in different federal departments in such manner that the work of these different agencies may be more efficiently harmonized and promoted. This new Bureau of Narcotics will have at its head a Commissioner of Narcotics to be appointed by the President, and the employees of the bureau will be given authority as customs officers, so that, in addition to other duties, it will be possible for them to watch the boundaries of the United States and prevent smuggling of narcotic drugs into the different commonwealths. The determination of the amount and kind of narcotic drugs to be admitted through the different entry ports of the United States is deputized somewhat to the Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, who is called upon to make his recommendations to the chief or commissioner of the federal Bureau of Narcotics.

* * *

Federal and State Legislation on Public Health Measures Must Be Watched.—For a time, before H. R. 11143 was introduced, it looked as if the medical profession was to have thrust upon it another one of those lay bureaus which, through meddlesome deputies and representatives, could have become a real nuisance and menace to members of the medical profession in their daily work and practice. In view of the rapid manner in which the first narcotic measures went on to rapid consideration during the present special session of congress, it is gratifying to know that it was possible to bring into play sufficient influence to delete some of the provisions which otherwise in the future might have become a serious handicap to the practice of scientific medicine. This recent experience also shows how important it is to be constantly on the alert when congress is in session or when a state legislature is in session. It is much easier to battle obnoxious public health legislation before the proposed acts go on to passage to become laws than it is to effect changes once they have been enacted and placed on the statute books, with a powerful group of employees to battle not only for a continuation of their existence, but as a rule for an increase in bureaucratic power.

FOOD FADS AND FALLACIES—RESOLUTIONS THEREON BY THE COUNCIL

Recent Resolutions Adopted by the Council.—In the minutes of the one hundred and ninetieth meeting of the Council of the California Medical Association, as printed in the June 1930 issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 450, are given some resolutions passed by the Council of the California Medical Association. The resolutions dealt with the subject of food and nutritional fads.

Some members of the California Medical Association may wonder why this seeming digression from regular organization work should have